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AUG 17 2010

In re Application : OFFICE OF PETITIONS
Michael C. Jones :
Application No. 10/671,820 : DECISION ON APPLICATION
Filed: September 26, 2003 : FOR PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Attorney Docket No. 5086 :
:

This is in response to the REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.705(b) WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE filed February 10, 2010. Applicant requests that the determination of patent term adjustment be corrected from 472 to 594 days. Applicant requests this correction in part on the basis that the Office will take in excess of three years to issue this patent and in light of the recent court decision in Wyeth v. Dudas, No. 07-1492 (D.D.C. September 30, 2008).¹

As the instant application for patent term adjustment requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within three years of the filing date, the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) is **DISMISSED as PREMATURE**.

Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term patentees are entitled to for Office failure to issue the patent within three years. See 37 CFR 1.702(b). (This is true even where a request for continued examination (RCE) was filed). The computer will not undertake the § 1.702(b) calculation until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. Likewise, the computer will not calculate any further Office delay under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(4) or applicant delay under 37 CFR 1.704(c)(10) until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. As such, the Office cannot make a determination on the patent term adjustment relating to those provisions until the patent has issued.

Requesting reconsideration of the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent under 37 CFR 1.705(b) based on the initial determination of patent term adjustment and a projected issuance date of the patent (or even the filing date of the request for continued examination) is premature. Accordingly, it is appropriate to dismiss such a request as premature.

¹Reconsidered in light of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit's decision in *Wyeth v. Kappos*, 2009-1120 (Fed. Cir. 1-7-2010).

Rather than file an application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) contesting the 37 CFR 1.702(b) calculation at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, applicants are advised that they may wait until the time of the issuance of the patent and file a request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d). As the USPTO does not calculate the amount of time earned pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) until the time of the issuance of the patent, the Office will consider any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment due to an error in the calculation of 37 CFR 1.702(b) to be timely if the request for reconsideration is filed within two months of the issuance of the patent. However, as to all other bases for contesting the initial determination of patent term adjustment received with the notice of allowance, applicants must timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee.²

To the extent that applicant otherwise requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, the application for patent term adjustment is **DISMISSED**.

Applicants argument fails to include 3 days of Office delay from November 10, 2008 to November 13, 2008 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(a)(2) and thus the total Office delay at the time the Notice of Allowance was mailed was 475 (453 + 3 +19) and the total patent term adjustment was 472 days (475 "A" delay minus 3 days Applicant delay).

Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated on the patent must be timely filed within two months after issuance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d) and must include payment of the required fee under 37 CFR 1.18(e).

The Office of Data Management has been advised of this decision. This application is being referred to the Office of Data Management for issuance of the patent.

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision should be directed to Senior Petitions Attorney Patricia Faison-Ball at (571) 272-3212.



Anthony Knight
Director
Office of Petitions

² For example, if applicants dispute both the calculation of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) for Office failure to mail a first Office action or notice of allowance not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed, and under 37 CFR 1.702(b) for Office failure to issue a patent within three years of the actual filing date of the application, then applicants must still timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee to contest the calculation of Office delay in issuing a first Office action or notice of allowance. See 37 CFR 1.705(b) and 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B). A dispute as to the calculation of the § 1.702(a)(1) period raised on request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d) will be dismissed as untimely filed.